

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 remain in the application.
Claims 1, 8 and 12-20 are herein cancelled.
Claims 2-6, 9 and 10 are currently amended.
Claims 21-31 are newly presented.

Elections/Restrictions

Claims 1-20 were subject to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-11 were elected for prosecution in the present application. Claims 12-20 were withdrawn from further consideration and are hereby cancelled. However, the Applicant reserves the right to pursue the non-elected claims in one or more Divisional applications filed during the pendency of the present application.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is thanked for acknowledging and reviewing the Information Disclosure Statement previously filed.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-11 were objected to for informalities.
Claims 1 and 8 are herein cancelled, whereby the objection is made moot.
Claims 2-6, 9 and 10 are amended herein to correct the informalities. The current amendments to correct informalities in claims 2-6, 9 and 10 are not needed to achieve patentability of the claims, and furthermore, such current amendments do not narrow the scope of the claimed invention.

The objection as to claim 7 is made moot by amendment of claim 4 from which claim 7 depends. The Applicant therefore declines to amend claim 7 at this time.

The objection as to claim 11 is made moot by amendment of claim 10 from which claim 11 depends. The Applicant therefore declines to amend claim 11 at this time.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) over US Patent 5,236,118 to Bower et al.

Claims 1, 8 are cancelled, whereby the rejection is made moot.

Claim 9 is herein amended to depend from now allowable claim 10, whereby the rejection is made moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-7, 10 and 11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2 and 10 are accordingly rewritten.

Claims 2 and 10 are now believed to be allowable. Claims 3-7 and 11 are allowable as depending from allowable base claims 2 and 10, respectively.

Newly Presented Claims

Newly presented independent claims 21 and 26 are allowable as reciting subject matter that was found to be allowable in original claims 2 and 10, respectively.

Newly presented independent claim 21 is based upon original claim 1 as modified by allowable claim 2. Newly presented independent claim 21 is believed to be broader in scope than original claim 1 as modified by allowable claim 2. However, the Examiner's determination of allowability as pertains to original claim 2 is sufficiently applicable to newly presented claim 21 as to make broader claim 21 allowable. Furthermore, at least because newly presented claim 21 is broader than original claim 1 as modified by allowable claim 2, newly presented claim 21 is not believed to represent a narrowing of original claim 1.

Newly presented claims 22-25 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 21.

Newly presented independent claim 26 is based upon original claim 8 as modified by allowable claim 10. Newly presented independent claim 26 is believed to be broader in scope than original claim 8 as modified by allowable claim 10. However, the Examiner's determination of allowability as pertains to original claim 10 is sufficiently applicable to newly presented claim 26 as to make broader claim 26 allowable. Furthermore, at least because newly presented claim 26 is broader than original claim 8 as modified by allowable claim 10, newly presented claim 26 is not believed to represent a narrowing of original claim 8.

Newly presented claims 27-31 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 26.

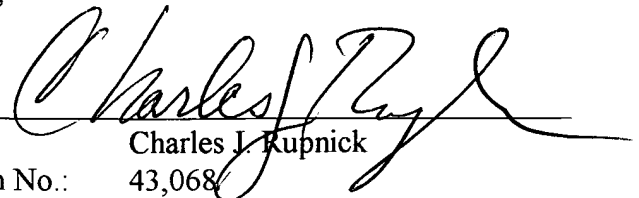
The claims now being in form for allowance, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

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Amdt. dated March 21, 2005
Reply to Office action of December 23, 2004

If the Examiner has questions or wishes to discuss any aspect of the case, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles J. Rupnick", written over a horizontal line.

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